

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Chair, I would like to commend the House Armed Services Committee and its Chairman, Honorable BUCK MCKEON, and Ranking Member, Honorable ADAM SMITH, on passage of the FY15 Defense Authorization Bill today that includes funding for additional Navy EA-18G "Growler" aircraft, as well as language to continue the EA-18G and F/A-18 E/F lines in my district in St. Louis, Missouri.

The United States Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Greenert, has testified to Congress numerous times this year about the growing need to control the electromagnetic spectrum to support the war fighter. He and the Navy have requested 22 additional EA-18G "Growler" aircraft, as part of an unfunded requirement, to meet these expanding electronic attack requirements.

I have a number of constituents that work on the EA-18G and F/A-18 production lines in St. Louis. Without additional aircraft from Congress this year, this production line will shut down, and we as a nation will lose a national asset—including thousands of dedicated and talented workers who make up this defense industrial base.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the coming weeks, especially on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, to help address this clear Navy requirement. We need to support our war fighter, and the EA-18G "Growler" is vital to operating and prevailing in the important and growing airborne electronic attack environment.

RECOGNIZING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM LASSIE LEAGUE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 45th anniversary of the Prince William Lassie League for their continued service and dedication of providing a youth softball sports program for Prince William County girls to all walks of life.

In 1969, a handful of rural Prince William County residents were concerned that there

were not enough sports opportunities for young girls. They created a slow-pitch softball league for girls aged 6–16. This new sports venue quickly complimented the many sports venues for boys and provided girls a place of their own to play sports and have friendly competition. This new league of slow-pitch softball for girls was known as the "Dale City Lassie League."

In 1991, 22 years after its creation, the Dale City Lassie League became the Prince William Lassie League, which accommodated the growing county and its many families. With the dedication of volunteers and communities, the Lassie League has provided an avenue where young girls can develop athletic skills, cultivate life-long friends and learn sportsmanship. In the past 45 years, the Lassie League has supported between 12–15 thousand players and families through participation. The Lassie League now supports girls aged 5–18 and conducts two seasons (spring and fall) annually.

The doors to the Lassie League are open to all young girls in Prince William County, no matter what their social or economic background might be. For young girls whose family is financially limited, the Lassie League finds a way for that girl and her family to participate. The League also provides college scholarships annually to participating girls.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 45th anniversary of the Prince William Lassie League.

STOP ADVERTISING VICTIMS OF EXPLOITATION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, sex trafficking is one of the most appalling crimes of our time. It is a modern day form of slavery, and deserves our attention and resources so we can put an end to this hideous practice. This is why I support the intent of H.R. 4225, the Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation Act of 2014. This bill targets the facilitators of sex trafficking by prohibiting anyone from benefiting financially from or distributing advertising that offers a commercial sex act in a manner that violates federal criminal code prohibitions against sex trafficking of children.

However, I could not support this bill because it adds these activities to a list of current crimes for which mandatory minimums jail sentences are required. Simply put, mandatory minimum penalties do not work. They discount factors in crimes, prevent judges from meting out punishments that are tailored to the criminal, and have been proven discriminatory to people of color.

Mandatory minimum sentences make legislators feel good, but have wrought terrible injustices in certain cases. They have been de-

monstrably shown not to reduce crime rates. Even the Judicial Conference, the group that represents federal judges, has said that mandatory minimums violate common sense.

For this reason, I cannot support H.R. 4225—however well intended—because it prescribes mandatory jail sentences.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4031, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act.

First and foremost, let me address the serious allegations that employees at a number of VA hospitals around the country placed veterans on secret waiting lists and manipulated backlog data. This is absolutely shameful and if the VA Inspector General determines those claims to be true, we must hold those individuals accountable and swiftly remove and punish all employees who were part of this alleged wrongdoing.

Unfortunately, the bill before us today is a fake solution and provides no real fix to the fundamental problems at the VA. Its stated purpose is to hold senior level employees accountable by giving the VA Secretary the authority to terminate them at-will. However, current law already allows for Senior Executives to be terminated for poor performance. Moreover, the VA has broad tools to remove individuals from the SES who are rated unsatisfactory, while providing them no right of appeal. In the last two years, fourteen Senior Executives have been removed.

This legislation is an impulsive political reaction to an awful situation, and has many unintended consequences that could ultimately jeopardize the quality and care that our veterans receive. It would dismantle civil service protections that have been in place for decades and would open the door for political abuse and witch-hunts, effectively creating a mechanism where career federal employees could be removed because of their views or political affiliation. If passed, it would turn 400 Senior Executives at the VA—including many who served in the armed services and are veterans themselves—into at-will employees.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more important than providing for the men and women who have made so many sacrifices for our country. However, this bill merely provides a knee-jerk public relations response to a serious problem, and glosses over the real systemic issues we need to address at the Veterans' Administration.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

USA FREEDOM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking Chairman GOODLATTE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, the other Judiciary Committee sponsors, and Leader CANTOR for all of their hard work coming to a compromise with the Intelligence Committee that enacts meaningful change to FISA while preserving operational capabilities.

It is commendable that we have found a responsible legislative solution to address concerns about the bulk telephone metadata program so that we may move forward on other national security legislative priorities. Our obligation to protect this country should not be held hostage by the actions of traitors who leak classified information that puts our troops in the field at risk or those who fear-monger and spread mistruth to further their own misguided agenda.

Following the criminal disclosures of intelligence information last June, the Section 215 telephone metadata program has been the subject of intense, and often inaccurate, criticism. The bulk telephone metadata program is legal, overseen, and effective at saving American lives. All three branches of government oversee this program, including Congress, inspectors general, and internal compliance and privacy and civil liberties offices in executive branch agencies.

Despite the effectiveness of the program, and the immense safeguards on the data, many Americans and many Members of this body still have concerns about a potential for abuse. The legislation we are considering today is designed to address those concerns and reflects hundreds of hours of Member and staff work to negotiate a workable compromise.

In March, Intelligence Committee Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER and I introduced legislation that was designed to accomplish these main priorities: We committed to ending bulk metadata collection of communications and other types of records. We committed to providing more targeted, narrow authorities so as not to put America at risk. We committed to providing an even more robust judicial review process for the program. And we committed to providing more transparency into the FISA process and the decisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. The revised USA Freedom Act accomplishes the same goals, as well.

This legislation is intended to prohibit "bulk" collection activities under the authorities in question. "Bulk" collection means the indiscriminate acquisition of information or tangible things. It does not mean the acquisition of a large number of communications records or other tangible things. Rather, the prohibition applies to the use of these authorities to engage in indiscriminate or "bulk" data collection. These changes are intended to respond to concerns that these authorities could be used to permit a bulk data collection "loop-hole."

The bill bans bulk collection by introducing the requirement for a "specific selection term." The ban on bulk collection, however, is not in-

tended to limit acquisition of information through the traditional, targeted types of FISA or National Security Letters. The list of examples of what may constitute a specific selection term is non exhaustive, and we anticipate there will be other forms of discriminants than those contained in the legislation.

The legislation also creates a new mechanism for obtaining call detail records on a continuing basis for up to 180 days to protect against international terrorism. The legislation is not intended to affect any current uses of Section 501 outside of the bulk context, including for records related to foreign intelligence information not concerning a U.S. person and clandestine intelligence activities.

We also assured that the language we are considering today permits a return of two hops to include using records identified by the government as the basis for the second hop. Additionally, it is important that when records are produced to the government they are produced in a form that will be useful—meaning that the government can set conditions on their production, including by determining the format and manner for production. This does not, however, mandate that companies change their business practices to store data in any particular form.

The USA Freedom Act provides the meaningful change to the telephone metadata program that Members of the House have been seeking. If we had the fortune of having a Commander in Chief firmly dedicated to the preservation of this program as is, we may have been able to protect it in its entirety. With that not being the case, I believe this is a workable compromise that protects the core function of a counterterrorism program we know has saved lives around the world.

I urge Members to support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM COMMITTEE OF 100

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Prince William Committee of 100.

The Prince William Committee of 100 was founded to pursue a simple but essential mission: examining issues facing Prince William County and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park by engaging topics through educational forums. By hosting thoughtful discussions and debates, the Committee pursues solutions to area problems and helps foster a better understanding of pressing community matters.

The Prince William Committee of 100 strives to attract membership that is representative of the cultural, political, professional, and demographic diversity of the Prince William area. Membership must reside or work in Prince William County or the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park and demonstrate that they are community stakeholders with a vested interest in local affairs.

It is my honor to enter into the Congressional Record the names of the current officers and board members of the Prince William Committee of 100. It is dedication like theirs

that has helped sustain this vital organization for 25 years.

President: Denny Daugherty
Vice President: Jack Kooyoomjian
Secretary: Jan Cunard
Assistant Secretary: Carol Proven
Treasurer: Harry Wiggins
Assistant Treasurer: Patricia Bradburn
Brentsville Director: Mary Beth Schaal
Coles Director: Jim O'Connor
Gainesville Director: Carol Noggle
City of Manassas Director: Susan Bardenhagen
Neabco Director: Patrick Durany
Occoquan Director: Don Scoggins
Potomac Director: James Young
Woodbridge Director: Antonio Merrick
At Large Director: Judy Anderson
At Large Director: Harry Glasgow
At Large Director: Connie Moser
At Large Director: Jane Beyer
Immediate Past President: Martha Hendley
Program Chair: Judy Zoll
Assistant Program Chair: Carol Noggle
Publicity Chair: Connie Moser
Assistant Publicity Chair: Nancy Vehrs
Auditors: Tony Guiffre and Judith Anderson
Webmaster: Jim O'Connor

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Prince William Committee of 100 on its 25th anniversary. The Committee helps create an active and more well-informed citizenry and our community is stronger for it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2014

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I submit a clarification of my vote during consideration of H.R. 4435, the Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I mistakenly voted "no" on rollcall Vote 231, the McKinley of West Virginia Amendment No. 1. I intended to vote "aye."

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, our veterans have served our Nation with pride and honor since our country was founded over 200 years ago, and we owe them and their families a debt that we can never fully repay.

One of the things we can do, however, is ensure that veterans receive the benefits they have earned, and providing high-quality health care must be our foremost priority. If a person is ill, his or her entire quality of life is affected.

The revelations we have learned about the gross negligence at the Phoenix hospital are shocking and deplorable and should be condemned—and should never happen again. But H.R. 4031 does not get to the root of the matter and it does not fix the issue.

Clearly there are serious problems at the VA that must be addressed, and those that allowed this travesty must be held accountable.

However, this bill does not address this problem.

This bill would allow Senior Executive Service employees to be fired without cause—for absolutely no reason, including political reasons. Under current law, Senior Executive Service employees can already be fired for poor performance. An SES employee must, not can, but must be removed should they receive even one unsatisfactory rating.

I strongly support holding all federal employees accountable for the job they are hired to do, no matter what position they hold in government. The American people must have faith in their government. While an investigation of the problems at the Phoenix VA is ongoing, the negligence and indifference is inexcusable. We must get to the bottom of what happened, and make sure it, or anything like it, never happens again.

We should be looking for answers, not using time and energy on this bill, and instead focus on the real problem of why these horrendous actions were allowed to occur.

RECOGNIZING VIVIAN CASTLEBERRY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vivian Castleberry, recipient of the 2014 Visionary Woman award given by Juliette Fowler Communities. Ms. Castleberry became the first female editor of the Dallas Times Herald in 1957 and spent twenty-eight years there before her retirement to pursue a second career as a profound peace activist.

A Texas native, Ms. Castleberry co-founded The Dallas Women's Foundation, The Family Place, and the Women's Center of Dallas and founded Peacemakers Incorporated. Her work as a "grassroots Citizen Diplomat" included traveling to Russia to meet and interview women entrepreneurs who were educated in the United States and returned to Russia to use their skills to build their own communities.

Since retiring from the Dallas Times Herald, Ms. Castleberry has written four books: *Daughters of Dallas*, *The Texas Tornado*, *Sarah the Bridge Builder*, and *Seeds of Success*. Because of her success in journalism, Ms. Castleberry has won numerous awards like the "Katie" awards given by the Press Club of Dallas, two United Press International awards, a Buck Marryat Award for "outstanding contributions to communications," among others.

Ms. Castleberry was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 1984 which is the same year of its creation. A journalistic pioneer, I am proud that Ms. Castleberry is a member of the Dallas community. Ms. Castleberry is said to have been the "godmother" of the women's movement in Dallas. Her success in shining the light on capable and accomplished women contributes to today's women's movement.

Please join me in recognizing Vivian Castleberry, a woman I count on as one of my good friends and supporters over the years, not only for her earning the 2014 Visionary Woman award, but for helping to bring women to the forefront of our society.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL COALITION OF 100 BLACK WOMEN, INC., PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CHAPTER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Prince William County Chapter and congratulate them on being awarded a \$78,000 grant from Potomac Health Foundation to educate African American women in eight churches on Triple Negative Breast Cancer.

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. Prince William County Chapter was established on Saturday, November 17, 2012 in Woodbridge, Virginia with the mission to advocate on behalf of women of color through national and local actions and strategic alliances that promote the NCBW agenda on leadership development and gender equality in the areas of Health, Education, Economic and Political Empowerment.

With more than thirty partners and vendors, which included local, district and national organizations, NCBW began 2013 with a community health fair on February 9—"Knowledge is Key to Good Health." The health fair included a panel discussion on Triple Negative Breast Cancer which included a Surgeon, Radiation Oncologist, Medical Oncologist and a Radiologist/Mammographer. The health fair ended with eight breakout sessions and on-site screenings.

Each two hour session was conducted by the executive team with support from Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center. In addition, each session was followed by mammography screenings. Hundreds of women in Prince William County have been educated on Triple Negative Breast Cancer and the importance of early detection. NCBW partnered with Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center and its physicians to develop the curriculum, conducted all training sessions and provided mammography screenings. The training sessions have been completed at all eight churches in Prince William County.

On November 2, 2013 NCBW held their first kick off implementing their faith-based educational workshop program, "A Culturally Targeted Faith-Based Program focused on Educating Black Women in Prince William County about Triple Negative Breast Cancer to Increase Awareness on Prevention, Early Detection, Treatment, and Quality of Life" at First Mount Zion Baptist Church in Dumfries, Virginia. This session was followed by seven other faith-based outreach events in the surrounding community with efforts of equipping the female population with knowledge of breast cancer. These educational sessions educated thousands of women on Triple Negative Breast Cancer and the importance in Mammography Screening.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Prince William County Chapter for educating the community about Triple Negative Breast Cancer. They have done yeoman's work promoting preventative care and the importance of living a healthy lifestyle.

TRIBUTE TO BETTINA L. WESLOH

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute my constituent, Bettina L. Wesloh, a distinguished community leader. In June, Mrs. Wesloh, a resident of Eldersburg, Maryland, will receive the Leader of Excellence Award from Girl Scouts USA.

Mrs. Wesloh has been a mentor for pre-teen and teen girls in Girl Scout Troop 1379. She has motivated these girls to continue in scouting and inspired them to participate in outstanding community service activities, including making 75 blankets for Project Linus, for which the troop earned the Silver Award. As the members of the troop work toward earning their Gold Awards, Mrs. Wesloh continues to advise and assist the girls. She also takes the time to advise independent girl scouts who are not members of Troop 1379.

Mrs. Wesloh also serves as a mentor for the Robo-Lions FRC Team 2199 robotics team, assisting the students with public relations and business projects. She has been instrumental in organizing field trips for the students and fundraising drives to support science, technology, engineering and mathematics initiatives. Under her mentorship, the team won two Entrepreneurship Awards and the Regional Chairman's Award, which is considered the highest award a team can win at a regional FIRST robotics competition. In fact, Mrs. Wesloh is so passionate about the importance of STEM education that she is a founding director of PIE3, a non-profit organization that supports STEM education and activities in and around Carroll County, Maryland. Mrs. Wesloh is also a substitute teacher for the Carroll County Public Schools.

A member of the Wesley Freedom United Methodist Church, Mrs. Wesloh has served as President of United Methodist Women, which, among other things, advocates for women's rights and the prevention of human trafficking. Mrs. Wesloh is part of United Methodist's Leadership team and Servant Circle. In recent years, Mrs. Wesloh organized the collection of over fifty flood buckets for donation to the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Bettina Wesloh is a truly compassionate and dedicated community leader who has made a difference in the lives of countless people. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude and appreciation to her for her outstanding community service and her invaluable work with young people.

USA FREEDOM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the work that Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. SCOTT, and others have put into this, but the bill before us still falls woefully short of what is required to correct the abuses brought to light over the last year.

This legislation still allows the government to collect everything they want against Americans—to treat Americans as suspects first and

citizens second. It still allows decisions about whom to target, and how aggressively to go after acquaintances of acquaintances of targets, to be made by mid-level intelligence community employees, not federal judges. This so-called "two-hops" surveillance casts a very wide net that can reach millions of people.

Most important, the fundamental decisions made under the authorities provided in this bill will be made using a weak, inferior standard that does not reach the probable cause standard. In other words, the government can spy on people based on weak suspicions and not on legally established probable cause.

Now, my friends say, "Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good." The perfect? How could anyone here vote for legislation that doesn't uphold the constitutional standard of probable cause?

Probable cause has been well established in law for two centuries to keep Americans secure by keeping intelligence and enforcement officers focused on real threats, not on vague suspicions or wild-goose chases. Indeed, the debate over adding a Bill of Rights to the Constitution was about raising the standard for the government's legal interaction with its citizens, not lowering it as we are now. That standard for the behavior of intelligence and law enforcement officers is not archaic. The power of the government to oppress individuals based on false suspicions is not less, but greater, than when the Constitution and Bill of Rights were written.

The bill also fails to deal with some of the most important abuses revealed over the last year. It provides no protection for national security whistleblowers, whose revelations over the last decade are the only reason why we are finally having such a public debate on this issue. The secrecy of the Intelligence Community is so complete that Congress will never be able to have meaningful oversight without whistleblowers from within the community, and rarely will they speak up without some protection against firing or worse. And human nature has not changed. The propensity for investigators to let their suspicions get the better of them is as great as it ever was—even well intentioned investigators.

The bill also allows the government to continue surreptitiously to compromise encryption and privacy technology built into American electronics and software products, putting at direct risk America's hi-tech business sector and the jobs it provides.

A decade ago there was a major change in the relationship between Americans and their government. This bill does not correct it. Members should reject this badly flawed bill and the House leadership should allow an open debate on a real surveillance reform bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 23RD ANNUAL BEST OF RESTON AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 23rd Annual

Best of Reston Awards for Community Service. The Best of Reston Awards are the result of collaboration between Cornerstones (formerly Reston Interfaith) and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and are presented to individuals, organizations and businesses whose extraordinary efforts make our community a better place. I am pleased to enter the names of the following recipients of the 2014 Best of Reston Awards into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Individual Community Leader: Carol Ann Bradley. Ms. Bradley has dedicated herself to service both locally and globally. She has worked with Global Camps Africa, the Friends of the Reston Regional Library, the Embury Rucker Community Shelter, the Southgate Community Center, the Reston Community Center, the American Association of University Women, The Links, Inc. and Educators, Then, Now and Forever.

Individual Community Leader: Jerry Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson uses his broadcasting skills to highlight local nonprofits. He is the director of Development and Outreach for Fairfax Public Access, which provides television and radio cablecasting services to the region. As a volunteer he has filmed and produced videos for numerous nonprofits and civic groups.

Individual Community Leader: Cate Fulkerson. Ms. Fulkerson began serving Reston as an entry-level clerk at the Reston Association and climbed the ladder to her present role there, Chief Executive Officer. She also serves as the chair for the Reston Character Counts! Coalition, chairs the annual Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce's Ethics Day for South Lakes High School, and remains active in Leadership Fairfax.

Individual Community Leader: Bonnie Haukness. Mrs. Haukness has given 40 years of service in many aspects of the Reston community. She is a board member of the Reston Historic Trust and Reston Museum, and she chairs its annual fundraiser, the Reston Homes Tour. She also co-chairs fundraisers for Cornerstones, helps organize the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, and also has led the Friends of Reston's fundraising event to send children to summer day camp.

Individual Community Leader: Davida Luehrs. Ms. Luehrs is a champion for the visually impaired. She works with the Foundation Fighting Blindness, the American Council for the Blind, and Visually Impaired People of Reston. She has assisted 14 Lions Clubs with hearing and vision screening programs for pre-school children, founded VisionWalk, and chaired Dining in the Dark fundraisers. She is also active in the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, school band boards, Reston Swim Team Association, parent teacher associations, blood drives, and meals on wheels.

Civic/Community Leader: HomeAid Northern Virginia. Members of the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association started HomeAid in 2001 to help the homeless gain stability by putting a roof over their head. It currently contributes resources to build and renovate homeless shelters as well as transitional and affordable housing. HomeAid has completed more than 70 projects and served more than 10,000 individuals, work valued at more than \$10.5 million.

Small Business Leader: Brennan & Waite, P.L.C. Founding members (and husband and

wife) Matthew Brennan and Carol Waite have led their firm to support many local causes, including the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, Habitat For Humanity, Let's Help Kids, the Mosaic Harmony Choir, FACETS, Cornerstones, and Leadership Fairfax. Mr. Brennan also developed a training program to help those interested in serving on county and non-profit boards.

Corporate Business Leader Cooley, LLP. This law firm encourages employees to give back to the community by offering paid leave time to volunteer and providing matching funds for money raised by employees to support local causes. Last year the firm contributed more than \$1 million to nonprofits around the United States. The company's pro bono efforts have led to contributions of more than 33,000 hours by 466 attorneys on more than 687 different pro bono projects per year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2014 Best of Reston honorees for their continued commitment to our community. I express my sincere gratitude to these individuals, businesses, and organizations for contributing their time and energy to the betterment of our community.

CELEBRATING JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month this May and to honor the Jewish Americans who have been so instrumental in building and strengthening our country.

Over the past 350 years, Jewish Americans have contributed greatly to history, arts, science, government and culture in our nation and millions have defended and continue to defend this country by serving in our Armed Forces. I am proud to commemorate this month with the Jewish Federation of the Quad-Cities, an organization that has spent over 30 years enriching, educating and supporting the Jewish Community in my district in Illinois.

The impressive contributions of Jewish Americans have also played a vital role in strengthening the important relationship between the United States and the State of Israel. Our country has a long history of supporting and standing with Israel and I was proud to join many of my colleagues on a delegation to Israel during my first year in office. We must preserve our bond into the future as we work together towards the theme of this year's Heritage Month, which is *tikkun olam*, repairing the world.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the work of the Jewish Federation of the Quad-Cities and thank all Jewish Americans during this month as we honor their extraordinary contributions to our nation.

CONDOLENCES TO THE REPUBLIC
OF TURKEY

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2014

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my condolences to the people of Turkey for the worst mining accident in that country's history. I recently returned from the region, where my colleagues and I met with Turkish leaders to discuss anti-terrorism cooperation and other issues of bilateral importance. We were received with a very warm welcome and appreciated the opportunity to meet with high level government officials.

The road ahead will not be an easy one. Yet the people of Turkey, one of our strongest allies, should know that they are not alone. The people of the United States will keep them in their thoughts and prayers as they seek to recover from an unbelievable tragedy.

IN HONOR OF OFFICER STEPHEN
ARKELL

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2014

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today we honor Officer Stephen Arkell of the Brentwood Police Department for his heroism and dedication to the people of New Hampshire. I was deeply saddened to hear the tragic news of Officer Arkell losing his life in the line of duty. Arkell's brave and selfless actions deserve our greatest honor and respect. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and community during this difficult time. In responding to such tragedies, our society shows its capacity for resilience and strength.

Our law enforcement officials and first responders confront danger on a daily basis in order to keep our communities safe from harm, and I am committed to advocating for these dedicated men and women who preserve our safety and protect our families. These courageous men and women devote their lives to protecting our way of life, and earn our utmost gratitude and support on a daily basis.

As a state and a nation, we must work together to stamp out violent crime and protect the men and women like Officer Stephen Arkell who devote themselves to protecting us. We owe our deepest gratitude to Officer Arkell, and to all law enforcement officials for all that they do to make New Hampshire and our nation a safer place to live and work.

H.R. 4435, THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, I want to thank the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee and their staffs for working with me on several amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, H.R. 4435.

This legislation reaffirms our commitment to our men and women in uniform, ensuring they have the necessary tools to support our national defense. In addition to my amendments, which will help create savings and improve department management, the bill before the House preserves essential benefits that are important to the thousands of active and retired military personnel and their families living in my Northern Virginia district. It also sustains the critical collaboration with the private sector in my district which partners with the Department on a wide variety of defense priorities, including cybersecurity, logistics, and information technology services.

With respect to federal investments in IT, I was pleased to co-author a comprehensive reform proposal with Chairman ISSA of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. It is based on our bipartisan bill, known as the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act, or FITARA, which passed the House with unanimous support earlier this year. I also want to thank our Committee's Ranking Member, Mr. CUMMINGS, for his generosity and leadership on these issues.

In the 21st century, effective governance is inextricably linked with how well government leverages technology to serve its citizens. Yet our current laws governing Federal IT procurement are antiquated, cumbersome, and out of step with technological change.

Our bipartisan FITARA amendment addresses this by comprehensively streamlining and strengthening the Federal IT acquisition process. FITARA recognizes that effective Federal IT procurement reform must begin with leadership and accountability. It enhances CIO authorities to ensure agency heads have talented leaders to serve as their primary advisers on IT management; to recruit and retain talented IT staff; and to oversee critical IT investments across the organization.

FITARA also accelerates data center optimization and strengthens the accountability and transparency of Federal IT programs. If enacted, 80 percent of the approximately \$80 billion spent annually on Federal IT investment would be required to be posted on the online IT Dashboard for the public to review, compared to the 50 percent or less that is available today. Fortunately, a bipartisan consensus is forming around the urgent need to streamline and strengthen how the Federal Government acquires and deploys information technology. Now is the time to ensure IT reforms are adopted government-wide and given the force of law.

I also was pleased to offer an amendment that will permanently authorize the use of simplified acquisition procedures for certain commercial items, which has the support of Department of Defense and other agencies, as well as industry partners, such as the Professional Services Council. This activity was originally authorized as a 3-year test program

under the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996. The program aimed to simplify the contracting process by providing contracting officers with additional discretion and flexibility for the acquisition of commercial items not exceeding \$5 million. Since being enacted, Congress has extended this authority eight separate times, and it is now set to expire on January 1, 2015.

Earlier this year, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) submitted a report to Congress, discussing the use of the test authority by the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, and Interior. GAO found that the test program reduced contracting lead time and administrative burdens with manageable risks. In responding to the GAO report, DHS and DOI both stated that the temporary nature of the test program hindered its use and recommended the authority be made permanent.

The Department of Defense offered the following comments in support of preserving this authority: "The test program provides benefits in terms of reducing lead time and administrative workload and enables faster delivery of much needed supplies and equipment to the Warfighter. For example, the U.S. Army Contracting Command Rock Island Contracting Center, which provides reach-back support to the theater, used this authority to execute several contract requirements in direct support of the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) theater of operations in FY 2011. Without this authority, the procurement lead time would have doubled. This could have led to mission failure in contingency operations, particularly those in the CENTCOM theater of operations. In addition, this authority is extremely beneficial in responding to domestic crises such as Hurricane Katrina, Midwest flooding, and recent tornados."

In addition, I offered an amendment to extend for five years a successful hiring authority to allow Federal retirees to be temporarily rehired on a part-time basis to fill critical skills gaps, mentor and train younger workers, and stave off a "brain drain" as more and more Federal employees become eligible to retire. First adopted as part of the NDAA for FY2010, this authority allows the heads of federal agencies to bring back a limited number of Federal retirees for a limited time without them incurring a penalty on the annuity.

Over the past five years, agency leaders report this has been a valuable tool in providing them with flexibility to address staffing needs as retirements have begun to increase. Nearly half of the management staff within some agencies is eligible to retire today, and agencies face further challenges as positions are being left vacant due to budget shortfalls and hiring freezes. Thanks to this re-hiring authority, agencies are able to bring back experienced staff to bridge knowledge gaps and help prepare future leaders. This program is limited in scope so as not to supplant the urgent need to hire and train new federal workers. I was pleased to have the support of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association and the Government Management Coalition, which called this a "good-government initiative."

I also worked with the Armed Services Committee on two foreign affairs-related amendments. The first is a bipartisan amendment that I was pleased to introduce with my fellow co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus Reps. DIAZ-BALART (FL), SIREN (NJ), and CARTER (TX). Our amendment directs the

President to sell F-16 C/D aircraft to Taiwan to modernize its aging air fleet. It is consistent with U.S. obligations to provide weapons for Taiwan's defense under the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act.

The Obama administration said two years ago that it would "seriously consider" selling the newer fighter jets to Taiwan. During the 112th Congress, 181 Members of the House sent a letter to the Administration urging it to "move quickly" to address Taiwan's critical need. Yet since then, it has only sold retrofit packages for Taiwan's older fighter models, some of which are decades old. Taiwan is a key strategic ally in the Pacific. It is America's 9th largest trading partner. Our amendment is critical to America's strategic economic and defense partnerships with Taiwan, and it reinforces our commitment to support a democratic Taiwan given the growing military gap and cyber security threat across the Taiwan Strait.

The other amendment builds on language already in the bill the limit military contact and cooperation with the Russian Federation in the wake of its annexation of Crimea and its ongoing role in stoking unrest within eastern Ukraine. The bill already limits activity and funding under the Department of Defense and the National Security Administration with respect to Russia, including the purchase of Russian-made helicopters for the Afghanistan Security Force. My amendment would also prevent the integration of Russian missile systems into the missile defense systems of the United States if such integration undermines the security of the U.S. or NATO. It mirrors a similar prohibition already in the bill relating to the integration of Chinese missile defense systems.

The situation in Ukraine continues to deteriorate. We are witnessing open and armed

clashes in the streets and pro-Russian militants are usurping the authority of local governments. Russia's repeated attempts to undermine the sovereign governments of former Soviet Republics by stoking the discontent of ethnic minorities now constitutes Russia's *modus operandi* on foreign subterfuge. For countries seeking to shed authoritarian institutions, Western economic prosperity and democratic freedoms can be like a moth to flame. Cold War era geopolitics dictated that the endgame for the USSR was to extinguish that flame. In the post-Cold War era, Russia has its sights set on the moth. The President already has leveled sanctions against Russian political leaders and banks, and further economic sanctions are possible. To further pressure Russia to cease this aggression action and to reverse course, the U.S. and its allies should seek to limit all collaboration with the Russian Federation until and unless it withdraws troops from Crimea and Ukraine's eastern border.

Again, I thank the Chairman and the Ranking Member for working with me on these amendments. I am grateful for their inclusion in the final bill, and I urge my colleagues to support final passage.

RECOGNIZING JAY KNIGHT AND
DENNY SALISBURY AND CELEBRATING
THE LIFE OF LCPL
JOHNNY STRONG

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jay Knight, of East Moline, Illi-

nois, and Denny Salisbury for their efforts on behalf of Child's Play charity, and join them in commemorating Marine Lance Corporal Johnny Strong, who was killed in action while serving in Iraq at the age of 21.

Lance Corporal Strong was born in Waco, Texas. In school, he joined JROTC, and after graduation, he went to San Diego for boot camp and training. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, where he served with Jay and Denny. On June 12th, 2007, while on his second tour of duty, Lance Corporal Strong was shot and killed by an enemy sniper during a security patrol in Iraq's Anbar province. He had been among the first to volunteer to conduct an extra security sweep around the platoon's temporary forward operating base.

Lance Corporal Strong was an avid gamer and was interested in working in the video game industry when he finished his service. In his honor, Jay and Denny are bicycling approximately 4400 miles between Penny Arcade eXpo (PAX) gaming festivals in Boston and Seattle. Their ride is raising money for Child's Play, a charity which provides video games, books and other toys to children in hospitals worldwide. Along the way, Jay and Denny are stopping in children's hospitals around the country to showcase the important work of Child's Play and the real impact it has on the lives of sick children.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Jay Knight and Denny Salisbury for their dedicated service to our country as well as for their inspirational efforts in the name of Lance Corporal Strong to improve the lives of hospitalized children. I wish them the very best as they continue their extraordinary ride across the county.